



## Secretary's Scoop

The November 3, 2019 meeting of the State Line Gem and Mineral Society was called to order at 2:13 PM by Vice President Glenda Gafner. Eddie gave the invocation and everyone joined in with the Pledge of Allegiance.



Doris made a motion to accept the secretary's report as printed in the newsletter, seconded by Kathy and passed with all in favor.

Treasurer's report – Doris paid the rent, utilities, and ordered and paid for the Mexican geodes. Geode sales and member sales were very good at the Apple-Umpkin event even though the weather was quite cold and there was some rain. There was discussion about the weather. More of the large Mexican geodes should be ordered. Bill Schultz reported that there were still 9 of the large geodes left, and suggested that we probably don't need to order more of them for the next show which will be in March at the Jackson show. He did think that we needed some

more of the small to medium size Mexican geodes for upcoming shows. Jim made a motion to order more geodes, seconded by Ray. After some discussion the motion and second was amended to ordering at least 100 pounds each of the small and medium sized Mexican geodes. The amended motion passed with all in favor. Ray made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Carl. The motion passed with all in favor.

Glenda reported that Sherm (who was not able to attend this meeting because he volunteered to help the Toledo club with their open house) asked her to thank all of our hard working members for all of their efforts to make all of our shows such a great success. She also included her own thanks and appreciation to our active members.

Old business – The nominating committee consisting of Eddie and Bill Schultz reported that all current officers were willing to continue in their positions for another year and there were no other members interested in challenging any of the positions. There was discussion which included Glenda's acquiescence to serving as vice president for another year and the fact that Jan was in her third year as director. She was asked if she would be a first year director and she agreed. Ruby made a motion to retain all current officers for another year and rotate Jan from third year to first year director. Bill Schultz seconded and the motion passed with all in favor. *(The vote for nominees will be held at the December meeting.)*

Jan stated that she did not check the computer for Facebook announcements very often and thought someone who liked computers better should take over the Sunshine Committee chair position. Kathy volunteered to take over *(Thank you Kathy)*.

Eddie started a discussion about the "uperlites" we talked about in previous meetings. Bill Schultz produced the black light he had purchased for \$100.00 and showed everyone some of the rocks he found with the glowing properties under the black UV light. Glenda wanted to have someone look into the types and prices of portable UV lights for possible club field trips. Bill Schultz volunteered to research the possibilities and Eddie would call Joel Vickery for advice on what might be the best for our club to purchase.

Glenda asked if we should have a tool box for club use and discussion revealed that the club already has a tool box that was provided by Richard Snyder which he takes to our events. Judy also brings tape, scissors and other necessities for our events. Discussion also led to the rain at Apple-Umpkin and Judy noted that our cloth tablecloths tend to wick water into the display "necks" when they get wet. She thought plastic

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## Secretary's Scoop

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covers would be easier to dry off if they did get wet. Richard B. suggested that if we got some of the wide paper clamps we could clip the edges of our two tents together to form a channel for the water to run off to the side instead of down on the tables. Doris volunteered Richard to purchase said clamps. Ruby thought a single 10' x 20' tent would solve the problem and didn't think they were that expensive. She volunteered to research tent prices.

Glenda noted that the club usually has a Christmas party at a local restaurant and asked for suggestions of where we might want to go this year. Some doubt was raised about the availability of restaurants large enough to accommodate all who wanted to attend since many places were booked far in advance. Doris telephoned the Family Kitchen at Treat Highway in Adrian and was able to reserve the back room for Saturday December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. Glenda also mentioned that the club has sponsored a Christmas craft party for kids. The consensus was that Saturday would be a good day for that, but an actual date will be announced later.

Judy suggested that we could turn our display case around and put it up against the wall. The back doors of the case are glass so it would be easy to see the samples displayed and they would be much easier to get to. Glenda asked everyone to keep an eye out for possible wall displays for some of our specimens.

Glenda asked if there was any interest in field trips. She mentioned that she could make arrangements at a motel in Bedford, Indiana for members who want to attend the rock show there the third weekend in June. She will need to know who wants her to make the arrangements by March of 2020. Next year it will be June 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. There was also interest in Flint Ridge Ohio, Alpena Michigan for fossils/ Petoskey stones and Canada.

Bill Schultz mentioned that Richard B. had once said that the club had considered a location in Jasper Michigan for our clubhouse. He noticed a for rent sign in Jasper and called Sherm to see if he was interested in viewing the barber shop location. Sherm told him it was way too small and he wasn't interested. Bill called Richard B and asked if he was interested in seeing the location and of course he was. The barber shop location was indeed too small but the owner mentioned that his son had a larger building he might be willing to share with the club located at the corner of M52 and Weston Rd. in Jasper. Bill called the son and made arrangements for anyone who was interested to view the building on Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM. There was discussion about that sight being on one level so there would be no need to go up or down steps with heavy buckets of geodes.

Eddie made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ruby and passed with all in favor.

Please add our newest member to your member list:

Walt Koskowski, 1977 N. Erie, Toledo, Oh 43611 Phone 419 304-2176

Walt also stated that he has strangers drop cats off on his property and he is unable to care for 20 or more cats and kittens. He has tried to socialize the kittens by spending time with them so if anyone knows of anyone who would like a kitten, please let him know. He also tries to get the cats neutered but it is an expensive endeavor so he has to do it as his budget allows.

No one remembered to mention at the meeting but the December meeting is when we elect our officers and have our cookie exchange. Bake your favorite cookies and bring to exchange with club members.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Brzezicki

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## *Research for Possible Jasper Relocation*

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As an update to the newsletter, I joined Bill Schultz, Bill Sipes, Doris, Kathy and Charlene on November 5<sup>th</sup> at the Jasper location for a possible relocation of our clubhouse. Glenda planned on coming but she texted Bill saying she was not feeling well enough to go out. Bill Schultz measured the space in Morenci and noted there was approximately 800 square feet. The Jasper location would have to have some adjustments made to accommodate our needs but there is approximately 700 square feet of space there with another 200 square feet of space in an outside shed where geodes could easily be stored and loaded/unloaded for different events. I have tried to outline the advantages/disadvantages to share with members who were not able to attend the viewing of the proposed site. The Jasper location is all on one floor, no stairs to climb. It only has one bathroom but it is large and we only use the second bathroom at Morenci for storage anyway. The drive from Adrian (where many of our members live) is 15 minutes as opposed to 30 minutes to Morenci. The rooms at the Jasper location will be larger than in Morenci. There are no restaurants close to the Jasper location so there is no running next door for a sandwich or pizza. The proposed rent for the Jasper location is \$500.00/ month as opposed to \$410.00/month in Morenci but that includes heat/air conditioning and electricity which we have to pay extra for in Morenci. No air conditioning in Morenci? Of course not, but there is air conditioning available in Jasper and the windows open there if we want a warm breeze. I asked Doris to pull up the Consumer Power bills for the past 12 months and they totaled \$757.71 divided by 12 equals \$63.14 a month as an average. That added to the \$410.00 we pay in rent brings the monthly amount we pay to \$473.14. If we use excessive amounts of electricity in Jasper the rent may have to be adjusted.

We certainly are under no obligation to move. I do realize that all of us are getting older and it is more difficult for our younger members to haul geodes and rocks up and down basement stairs. With all of the events to which our members have committed, it seems even one or two steps when loading/unloading rocks can be taxing on our members health and well being. The Jasper location has close parking for many cars and there is no chance of blocking traffic while loading/unloading because it is well off the roadway. I encourage all members to come to the meeting on December 1<sup>st</sup> to talk to some of the members who were able to see the Jasper location and get information from them so that you can vote on what you think will be best for the club.

Richard Brzezicki



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## The La Brea Tar Pits



When this photograph was taken around 1910, the location depicted was described as “the Salt Creek oilfields, 7 miles west of Los Angeles.” Today, this spot is in the middle of downtown Los Angeles, eloquent testimony to urban sprawl, but the pools and deposits of asphalt still remain. For these are the La Brea tar pits, containing one of the richest, best preserved, and best studied assemblages of Pleistocene vertebrates, including at least 59 species of mammal and over 135 species of bird. The tar pit fossils bear eloquent witness to life in southern California from

40,000 to 8,000 years ago; aside from vertebrates, they include plants, mollusks, and insects — over 660 species of organisms in all.

Tar pits form when crude oil seeps to the surface through fissures in the Earth’s crust; the light fraction of the oil evaporates, leaving behind the heavy tar, or asphalt, in sticky pools. Tar from the La Brea tar pits was used for thousands of years by local native Americans, as a glue and as waterproof caulking for baskets and canoes. After the arrival of Westerners, the tar from these pits was mined and used for roofing by the inhabitants of the nearby town of Pueblo de Nuestra Señora la Reina de Los Angeles.

The bones occasionally found in the tar were first thought to be those of unlucky cattle. It was not until 1901 that the first scientific excavation of the pits were carried out. Scientists from the University of California at Berkeley, notably Professor John C. Merriam and his students, were among the first researchers to work on the La Brea fossils. Today, the George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries, right next door to the tar pits themselves, displays huge numbers of La Brea fossils. The Page Museum is part of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

Life in Los Angeles was somewhat cooler and moister 40,000 years ago than it is today, as we can tell by examining the plant fossils from La Brea. Many of the plants and animals found in La Brea are identical or almost identical with species that still live in the area — or that would be living in the area had Los Angeles not gotten in the way. Yet a number of the large animal species found at La Brea are no longer found in North America: native horses, camels, mammoths and mastodons, longhorned bison, and sabre-toothed cats.

In today’s ecosystems herbivores are much more abundant than carnivores. It is therefore curious that at La Brea about 90% of the mammal fossils found represent carnivores. Most of the bird fossils are also predators or scavengers, including vultures, condors, eagles, and giant, extinct, storklike birds known as teratorns. Why is this the case? If a pack of carnivorous mammals were to chase a lone prey animal into the tar pits, both predators and prey would become trapped. This would not have to be a frequent occurrence — an average of one major entrapment every ten years, over a period of 30,000 years, would be sufficient to account for the number of fossils found at La Brea. Scavenging animals, drawn to feed on trapped animals, would have a chance of getting trapped themselves. This would explain the preponderance of carnivores and scavengers.

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## The La Brea Tar Pits

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### **Smilodon californicus**

Smilodon, the most famous of the sabre-toothed cats, is the second most common fossil at La Brea. Literally hundreds of thousands of its bones have been found, representing thousands of individuals. It was first described by Professor John C. Merriam and his student Chester Stock in 1932. Today, it is the California state fossil. But Smilodon was not restricted to California; it ranged over much of North and South America.



<https://ucmp.berkeley.edu/quatarnary/labrea.html>

# Upcoming Events



**Sunday, Dec. 1, 2019**  
**State Line Gem & Mineral Society**  
monthly meeting  
201 W. Main St.,  
Morenci, MI 49256



**Cookie Exchange  
and Election of Officers**

**Discussion concerning possible relocation  
of our clubhouse**

**Saturday, Dec. 14**

4:00 PM

**Club Christmas Party**

Family Kitchen Restaurant  
Corner of Treat and 223  
Adrian, MI



**Ongoing -**

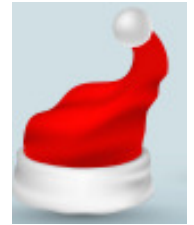
Richard Brzezicki is at the clubhouse on  
Thursdays 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm. It is best to check  
with him first before you go. Cell (269) 267-7666

Wire Wrapping Sessions at Hobby Lobby in  
Adrian on Fridays 11:00 am - 3:00 pm.

Linda Miller (419) 923-2090 and

Judy Snyder (517) 902-3990

(check to verify there will be someone there)



# Rock Trails

Sandy Gerhart, Editor  
704 W. US Hwy 223, #205  
Adrian, MI 49221

Meetings are held the  
first Sunday of each month  
at 2:00 PM  
at 201 W. Main St.,  
Morenci, MI 49256

